LESSON 4

In this lesson we will learn the use of prepositions.

1. Arabic nouns have endings to show their functions in the sentence. The normal ending of a noun is «-u » as in

 (The house is new). *al-baitu jadîd-u-n* — الْبَيْتُ جَدِيْدٌ

 A noun with the normal ending is said to be in the nominative case. In Arabic it is called مَرْفُوْعٌ.

 After a preposition this ending changes to: «-i» e.g.

 al-bait-u (the house) — الْبَيْتُ

 fî l-bait-i (in the house) [1] — فِي الْبَيْتِ

 bait-u-n (a house) — بَيْتٌ

 fî bait-i-n (in a house) — فِي بَيْتٍ

 al-maktab-u (the table) — الْمَكْتَبُ

 'ala l-maktab-i (on the table) — عَلَى الْمَكْتَبِ

 A noun preceded by a preposition is said to be in genitive case (in Arabic مَجْرُوْرٌ).

2. In this lesson we also learn the two pronouns: هُوَ "he, it", and هِيَ "she, it".

 In Arabic all nouns are either masculine or feminine.

 A masculine noun is referred to by the pronoun هُوَ whether it denotes a human being, an animal or a thing. e.g.

 Where is the boy? — أَيْنَ الْوَلَدُ؟

 He is in the mosque. — هُوَ فِي الْمَسْجِدِ .

[1] The word فِي has a long «î». But when it is followed by «al» the «î» is shortened because in Arabic long vowels are not followed by a consonant which has no vowel. (fîl ⇨ fil).

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Where is the book?	أَيْنَ الْكِتَابُ ؟
It is on the table.	هُوَ عَلَى الْمَكْتَبِ .

And a feminine noun is referred to by the pronoun هِيَ whether it denotes a human being, an animal or a thing. e.g.

Where is Aminah?	أَيْنَ آمِنَةُ ؟
She is in the house.	هِيَ فِي الْبَيْتِ .
Where is the watch?	أَيْنَ السَّاعَةُ ؟
It is on the bed.	هِيَ عَلَى السَّرِيْرِ .

Most feminine nouns end with a round ta (ة) but there are some which do not have any ending.

☞Note:

1. We have learnt that the tanwîn is the indefinite article, e.g. بَيْتٌ a house. This rule does not apply to proper nouns. So حَامِدٌ is just "Hâmid", not "a Hâmid".
2. Feminine proper nouns have no tanwîn, e.g. فَاطِمَةُ ، زَيْنَبُ ، آمِنَةُ

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Vocabulary

أَيْنَ where	عَلَى on
غُرْفَةٌ room	السَّمَاءُ sky
الحَمَّامُ bathroom	الفَصْلُ classroom
المَطْبَخُ kitchen	المِرْحَاضُ toilet
فِي in	

Exercises

Ex.1: Answer the following questions (the answers are to be based on the lesson).

Ex.2: Read and write with the correct ending.

Ex.3: At the end of page 23: Read and write with the correct endings. Remember that masculine proper nouns end in «-un», and feminine proper nouns end in «-u».

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LESSON 4A

In this part we learn two more prepositions: مِنْ meaning "from" and إِلَى meaning "to".

- We also learn two more pronouns: أَنَا "I" and أَنْتَ "You".

 أَنَا "I" is for both masculine and feminine, e.g.

 I am Muhammad. أَنَا مُحَمَّدٌ .

 I am Aminah. أَنَا آمِنَةُ .

 But أَنْتَ "you" is only for masculine singular. You will learn the feminine and plural forms later on.

- We also learn here two verbs ذَهَبَ "he went" and خَرَجَ "he went out".

 Note the Following:

 Where is Bilâl? أَيْنَ بِلالٌ ؟

 He went to the mosque. ذَهَبَ إِلى الْمَسْجِدِ .

 Bilâl went to the mosque. ذَهَبَ بِلالٌ إِلى الْمَسْجِدِ .

 So ذَهَبَ means "he went" but if it is followed by a noun as the subject, the pronoun "he" is dropped.

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Vocabulary

مِنْ	from.(If it is followed by اَلْ it becomes مِنَ)		
إِلَي	to	الفِلِبِيْنُ	The Philippines
اليَابَانُ	Japan	المَدْرَسَةُ	school
الصِّيْنُ	China	السُّوْقُ	market
الهِنْدُ	India	الجَامِعَةُ	university
المُدِيْرُ	headmaster		

Exercises:

Ex.1: Answer the following questions (the answers are to be based on the lesson).
Ex.2: Read and write with the correct ending.
Ex.3: Read and write.
Ex.4: Fill in the blanks with suitable propositions.

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